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Letter dated 4 November 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention recent highly provocative and aggressive actions of Turkey, which have caused serious concern and escalate tension in Cyprus. During the period from 20 to 26 October 1997 Turkey substantially reinforced the armaments of its armed military forces in the area of the Republic of Cyprus under its illegal occupation. Also Turkish warships on 2 November 1997 have entered and docked at the closed ports of Famagusta and Kyrenia in the occupied area and there have been numerous violations of the airspace of the Republic by Turkish military aircraft.

More specifically, on 23 October two military transport ships, a Bayractar (NL-120) and a Sancaktar (NL-121), at 0945 hours and 1630 respectively, docked at the occupied port of Famagusta, unloading 17 M48A5T2 tanks, 8 automated firearms 155 klm type M-52TS and a number of military vehicles. On 25 October at 1010 hours, a Bayractar (NL-120) transport ship docked at the occupied port, unloading 17 M48AT2 tanks.

A further indication of the heightening of tensions by Turkey in Cyprus is the fact that, as part of the current Turkish military exercises, on 2 November nine Turkish military warships, which include frigates, submarines, tankers and torpedo-boats, entered and are now docked at the occupied ports of Kyrenia and Famagusta.

I would also like to draw attention to the alarmingly increasing number of violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by Turkish military aircraft, which continue unabated as indicated below:

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On 1 November, 2 Turkish military planes and 11 helicopters violated the national airspace of the Republic by flying over the areas of Kyrenia.

On 2 November, one helicopter and eight Turkish military planes violated the national airspace of the Republic, of which two F-16s flew over the Kyrenia areas, and two F-16s flew over the area from Morphou Bay to Famagusta.

I would like to point out that these new Turkish illegal actions increase further the already excessive armaments in the occupied area, which has been characterized in your reports to the Security Council on the situation in Cyprus as one of the most densely militarized areas of the world.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest once again these new provocative actions which are in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. C. DROUSHIOTIS
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Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations